The LEGO® Builders Club

Bricks 'n Pieces

A magazine for LEGO® Club members — Autumn 1981

Whats new for '82

PREVIEW

IT is only right that Club Members should get advance information about new sets before any one else. Here are some of the LEGOLAND Town and LEGOLAND Space sets which will be going into the shops immediately after Christmas.

Many of you will get money from aunts and uncles for Christmas presents and it doesn't seem right that when you go shopping in January you should only be offered what was left over from the pre-Christmas rush. That is why we like to rush brand new sets into the shops as early as possible after the holiday.

In January '82 you will find three new LEGOLAND Space Sets and nine new LEGOLAND Town Sets to choose from, including the new Post theme. So now you can deliver letters in LEGOLAND Town. There will also be a set many of you have asked for—a LEGOLAND People Pack containing six assorted LEGOLAND figures on their own. That should be very popular!

Dear Member,

This is a very busy time for us in the toy trade. We have been working hard to fill the shops with a good selection of the 174 different LEGO sets for you—including the exciting new LEGO Railways—so that you will have a good choice for Christmas.

The difficult bit is forecasting exactly how many of each different set people will want to buy. Too few and we have disappointed customers. Too many and we have unhappy retailers left carrying expensive stock. But we hope to get it just about right without the shortages some of you experienced last year.

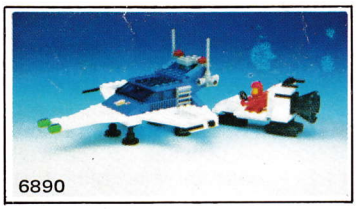
This business of judging how many sets are going to be needed is specially tricky with something new like the LEGO Railways because we have no previous experience to guide us. So, if you are keen on getting a Railway Set this Christmas, it might be wise to buy early, just in case the demand is bigger than we expect, resulting in a shortage in the shops.

Anyway, we hope that whatever present you set your heart on will be what you get on Christmas morning.

Happy Christmas.

Clive Nicholls

CLIVE NICHOLLS (Club President)



6890

Delta 1 Explorer & Shuttle (Shuttle 'docks' in Explorer craft).
Around £6·85.

6302

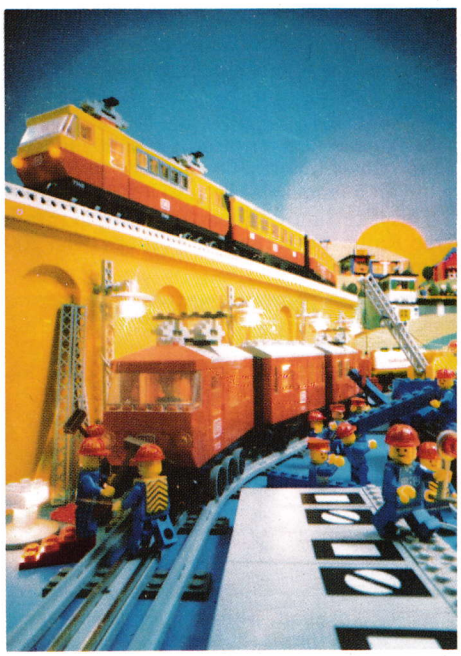
LEGOLAND People. Six assorted figures.
Around £2·35.

6651

Post van. Complete with opening letterbox.
Around £2·35.

6362

Post Office. With van, sorting racks and letter boxes.
Around £5·95.



What's new right now?

◀ **LEGO Railways** are the big story for this year of course and the sets went into the shops only a couple of months ago. They are well worth having a look at, with new LEGO electric train sets as well as battery operated ones.

Our picture also shows the remote-control panels for changing signal lights and points on the Electric Railways which add enormously to the fun.

Technical Sets have some exciting new ▶ additions in the shops now too. This chunky Tipper Lorry No. 8848 is just one of four new Technical Sets designed for older, expert builders. The others are a Helicopter, a Beach Buggy and a really super Tractor.

LEGO World 81 at Leeds

John Noakes of Blue Peter and his dog switch on the LEGO Railways display to declare LEGO World '81 open.

THIS year the giant LEGO World exhibition was held in Leeds where it filled the Bond Street Shopping Centre for the month of August.

Countless thousands of people saw the show and marvelled at all the big models and displays. A life size Gulliver model waded through water to capture Lilliputian ships. A mysterious scene of outer space displayed LEGO Space models. There was a giant hippo, a model of Concorde overhead and lots more.

In a special play room children built their own models from piles of LEGO bricks and in the Central Hall we built a giant dinosaur with the help of visitors. We called him Bertie the Bond Street Brontosaur and when finished he reared up over 4 metres high!

The exhibition was opened by John Noakes of Blue Peter fame, complete with his dog Skip (Shep now lives in retirement). Skip seemed to enjoy the crowds, the balloons, the children's band from a local school, the press photographers' flash guns and the lights from the TV cameras. It was a great day.

Three weeks later the giant Brontosaur model was completed after lots of frantic work from many willing hands and everyone agreed it had been the biggest and best LEGO Exhibition ever.

Two children help David Brown of LEGO to put the top brick on the head of Bertie the Brontosaur.

CLUB RALLY DAY WERE YOU THERE?

The LEGO World exhibition in Leeds was opened specially on Sunday, 9th August for Club Members only. Thousands came to the Rally, some from very long distances Perhaps you were there?

We started building the tail of the Brontosaur model. It snaked all through the shopping malls out the doors into the open air, over a footbridge and down the steps into Leeds City Square. Then it looped round, came back up the steps, back into the shopping centre and took off down the malls again. Yards and yards and yards of it.

The Brontosaur's tail went down the steps into City Square, looped round and went all the way back up again, sprouting all sorts of wonderful creations along the way.

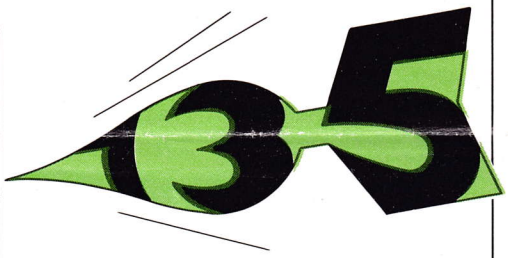
Along the way, the tail sprouted all sorts of wonderful creations; towers, castles, children's names and Club badges, all built from LEGO bricks.

There was a treasure hunt, a LEGO Machine Race, and a souvenir stall. Model designer David Lyall and Club President Clive Nicholls both spent most of the day signing autographs and everyone seemed to have a great time.

As one young Club Member said: "Coo! I've never *seen* so many LEGO bricks. It's like the whole world is made of it"!

Club President Clive Nicholls spent most of the day signing autographs . . .

Enthusiastic contenders in the Great LEGO Machine race line up their entries.



In the Great LEGO Machine Race, advertised in the last issue of Bricks 'n Pieces, we invited Members to bring to the Club Rally Day a LEGO machine powered by one rubber band.

The object was to see whose would go furthest.

All went well at first—30 ft...40 ft...60 ft. were recorded. Then along came Marc Hollinshead from Matlock with his Big Wheel Machine. This went so well it over-ran the marked course and had to be turned round to continue back again.

Marc's Big Wheel clocked up a staggering 135 ft. making him the clear winner of the £10 prize.

No one else even made 100 ft., though Simon Shaw of Leeds came close at 99 ft. 8 ins. which made him second.

This is certainly an idea to repeat at future Club Rallies. Who knows, perhaps even 200 ft. may be possible . . .

Marc Hollinshead with his record-breaking Big Wheel in the Great Machine Race.

Club visits to the LEGOLAND® PARK

In 1981 over 750 Club Members snapped up the chance of a visit to the fabulous LEGOLAND Park in Billund, Denmark, organised by Specialised Tours of East Grinstead. Did they enjoy it? Well, let them speak for themselves. Here are extracts from two of the many enthusiastic letters we received which will give you a better idea of what such trips involve than anything we can say.

First, from Wayne Healey of Mansfield who writes:

My special Birthday present was a trip to LEGOLAND. My mum, my little brother and myself went on a four day trip with Specialised Tours. It was good fun on the Ferry crossing. The hotel was lovely, they even had a table full of bricks set out in the foyer for us to play with.

The day we spent at the LEGOLAND Park was really wonderful, everything I had ever dreamed of. My brother and I saw everything of interest, and went on every ride there. It was a busy day trying to fit it all in a few hours. The weather was warm and sunny to make it a perfect day. Best of all, I liked driving the cars in the Traffic School and taking my 'driving test'.

My little brother loved it too, especially the Indian Chief at LEGOREDO. He was a very nice chief!

We made some nice friends, as we all had one thing in common—LEGOmania! We can't wait to go again, my Mum has started to save up already.

Photos show Wayne in the Traffic School, with the Indian Chief and with his brother in one of the LEGO model towns.

Next is an account by a Mr. Cantelo which he wrote for the Addington Church Magazine. We hope he won't mind us re-printing it for it gives a very good idea of how such trips work. He writes:

"Dad, can we go to LEGOLAND?"

The question came out of the blue, and left me searching my brain wondering where on earth LEGOLAND was. My son is an avid builder with LEGO bricks and a member of the LEGO Builders Club.

He receives a periodic review from the Club and it was in one of these that he saw details of a trip to Denmark—the land of LEGO. Having looked at the details and at the reasonable price it did not take long to decide that this was for the whole family.

The coach, which travelled all of the way with us, took us from Victoria to Harwich where we boarded the DFDS ferry *Dana Anglia* bound for Esbjerg. The trip which lasted 19 hours was one of luxury and relaxing comfort. The cabin berth was more than just adequate, with the toilet and shower unit en-suite.

Drinks on board are duty free, as are the goods sold in the shop—cigarettes, sweets, jewellery etc. The food was not included in the package trip but was beautifully served and deliciously appetising, particularly the cold buffet table where for about £3·65 you could help yourself to what you wanted as many times as you liked—my wife classed it as 'a ticket to pig'.

After a millpond crossing we arrived at Esbjerg midday Sunday. Having cleared passport control the coach took us via Vejle Fjord into the Munkebjerg forest where our hotel nestled among the trees. Adjacent to the heated indoor swimming pool were the Sauna baths and Solarium and doors led you out to the garden balconies where the sun loungers were arranged for sunbathing. Dinner was included in our stay but drinks were extra and very expensive, although only I suppose on par with London hotels. The bedrooms were superb, each with bedside telephone and radio. After breakfast next morning, which was again inclusive, we boarded the coach for LEGOLAND. We followed the road to Billund, about an hour's drive, and arrived at the park in time for the 10.00 a.m. opening.

Of our visit to the park itself, I cannot begin to tell you of all the pleasures, I only wish I could reproduce some of the many photos I managed to take, for the scenes all built of LEGO have to be seen. The idea came in the 1960s when Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, the man who created LEGO, had another good idea. He would build a new land—a wonderland, where fantasy would know no limits. In 1968 the 100,000 square metres of parkland was opened to the public and to date more than 10 million visitors have enjoyed its unique splendour. What really appealed to me was the area called LEGOREDO—a life-sized wild western town with saloons, eating houses, a jail with a real live sheriff, a general stores, Indian trading post, leather shop, printing press, The LEGOREDO Timber Trading Company and the LEGOREDO Mining Company where you can actually pan for 'gold'.

My wife (along with many others) was made honorary sheriff for the day and my son now has a WANTED poster offering a $10,000 reward for the capture dead or alive of the Addington Kid. The five hours spent there was nowhere long enough to take in all there was to see, but we had to be back at Esbjerg in time for the *Dana Regina* to sail at 5.30 p.m. The trip back on the ferry was equally as calm and relaxing as the journey out and all went by so quickly. The duty free goods were bought from the shop on board without so much as a small queue and our coach cleared both passport control and customs without problems.

With just a short stop at Chelmsford for a few refreshments, we were back at Victoria by 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday. We had made many friends on our journey and resolved that we would probably see each other again next year.

When we arrived home and began to unpack our cases, admiring the purchases we had made, my son came into our bedroom proudly clutching his LEGO Space kit. He was obviously overjoyed with himself and extremely pleased that he had managed to save so much of his pocket money to take with him.

"Thanks Dad, for taking me—I had a super time". I should have been thanking him, for I had a smashing time too and can't wait until next year and our next visit to LEGOLAND!!

HOW YOU COULD GO IN 1982

For next year Specialised Tours have doubled the number of ferry and hotel reservations so that they can take 1,450 visitors to Denmark. What is more, they are offering not only 4-day tours with a visit to the LEGOLAND Park but 5 and 6-day tours as well so that you can make a real holiday of it and see a bit more of Denmark while you are there in addition to LEGOLAND.

A further advance is that some tours will depart from Newcastle (with a coach link from Manchester) as well as London, for the convenience of Members in the north.

The prices for a 4-day tour from London start from £54 for a child under 11, £62 for a child 12–15 and £79 for an adult. For the 6-day tour, £98 per child under 11, £125 for a 12–15 year-old and £142 per adult, with rates for the 5-day tour between the two.

For full details of the costs, itinerary and departure dates, write to:

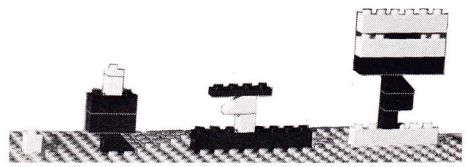
Mrs. Margaret Scowen
Specialised Tours
Wilmington House, High Street
East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3AM
Tel. (0342) 712785

Although Specialised Tours are an independent organisation and have no connection with LEGO U.K. Ltd., we are very impressed by their excellent organisation and have no hesitation in recommending them to our Club Members for we are sure you will be well looked after and have a super time.

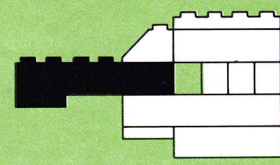
BUILDACODE MESSAGE

Here is another message in our secret Club code. Can you work out what it says?

For the key to the code, see the Summer 1981 edition of Bricks 'n Pieces.

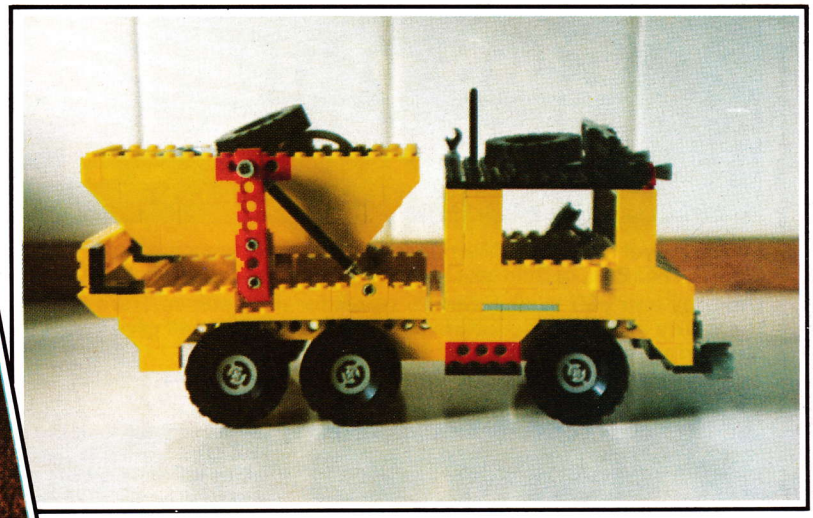


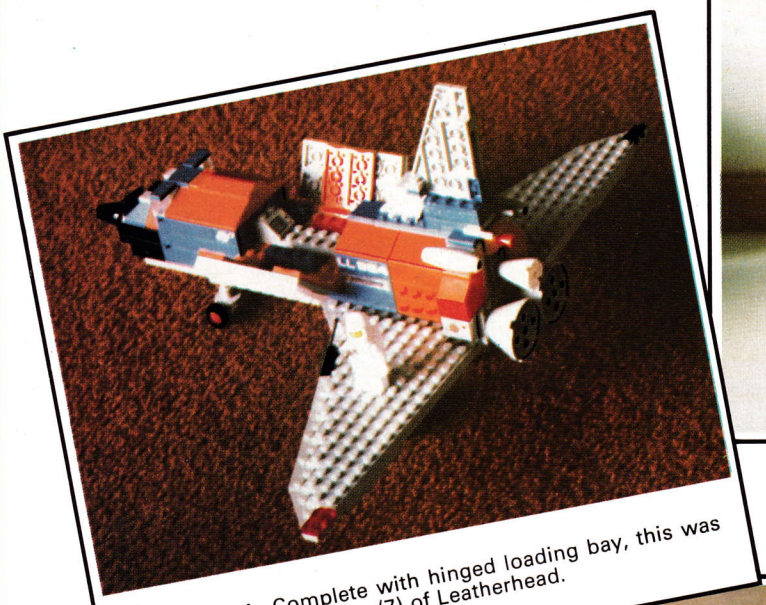
David A. Marek had a clever idea, he translated the letters of his full name into Buildacode and then built a model of an eagle's head from the 'letters' so that this is his personal code signature. What is more, he tells me that the Marek's have a family crest—guess what? An eagle's head of course, which makes it doubly clever.



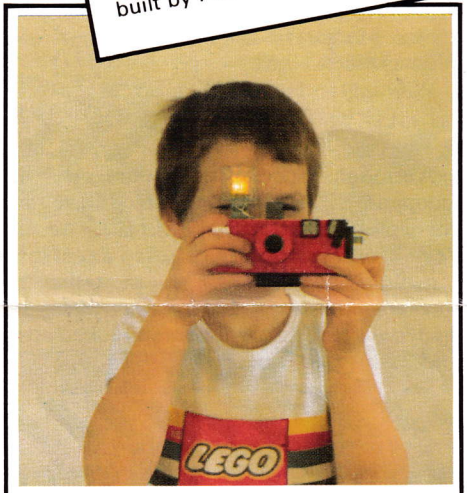
If you find any clever ways of using the Code for passing secret messages to other Club members, then why not write and tell us about it. We may be able to print your letters in the next issue. But *please* do not write to us in code, for if we get hundreds of letters it will take us too long to decipher them all!

Skip lorry Lots of you send in lorry models but this is the first skip lorry we have seen. Simon Cooney of Fleet built it. ▶

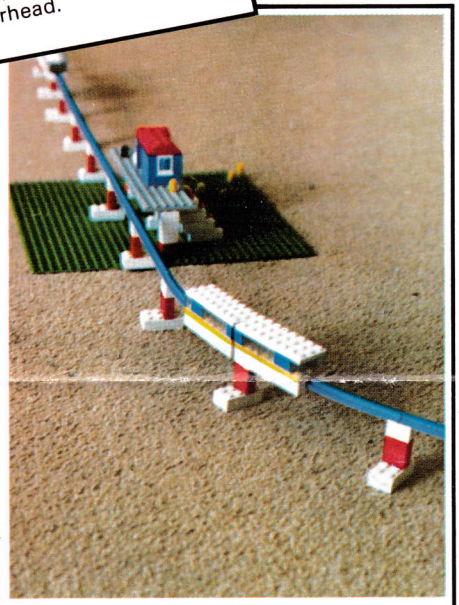




Space shuttle Complete with hinged loading bay, this was built by Paul Lawrenson (7) of Leatherhead.

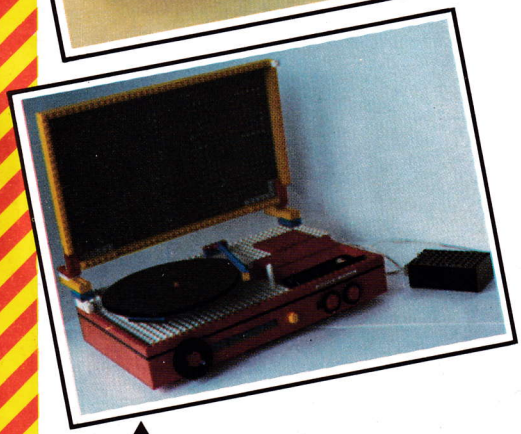


Camera Jonathan Dax (6) of Swallow built this camera complete with flash gun.



Monorail A nice, original idea from Michael Jarvis (7) from Glasgow.

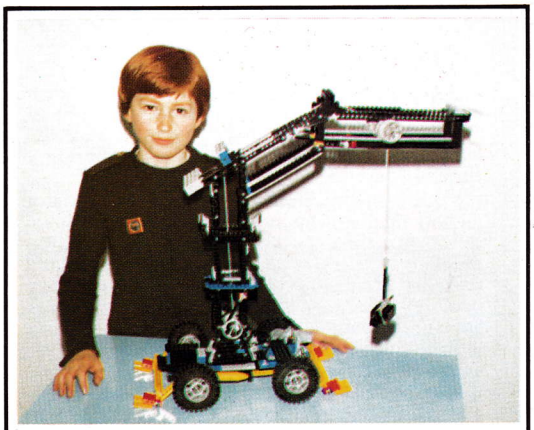
◀ **1918 Bi-plane** Walter Dowlen of Huddersfield is an expert on old planes. This beautiful model is of a Fokker D VII.



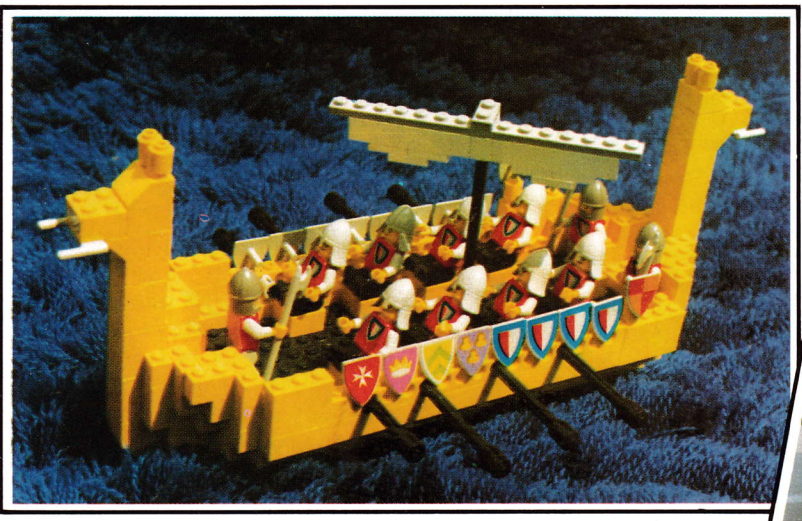
Record player Alexander Robertson (9) of Preston built this, complete with battery-operated turntable.

Gypsy camp Gail Stopher (11) of Welwyn got the idea for this from a picture in a book. Notice the camp fire and cooking pot. Very nice!

A "golden" Master Builder Badge goes to shown here. If you have a photograph of a become a Master Builder if your model is s



Mobile crane Cranes are a very popular model but this one by Jonathan Williams (10) of Ellesborough is specially fine. He built it from three different Technical sets.



Viking longboat A very lively model by Christopher Cook (11) of Camberley.

Silverstone pits Johan Dackner (13) of Cobham built this scene after a visit to the famous Silverstone racing track. It is full of activity and closely observed detail.

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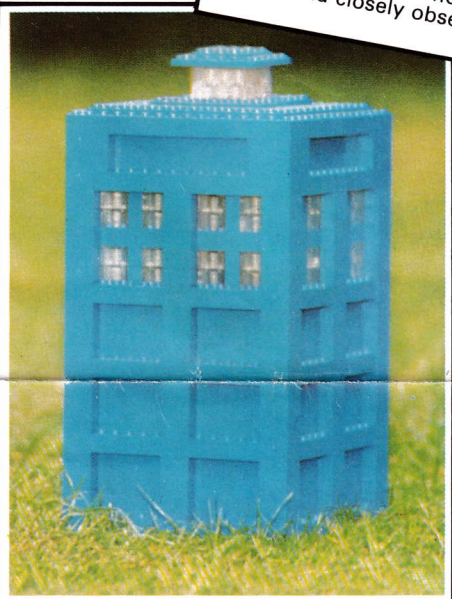
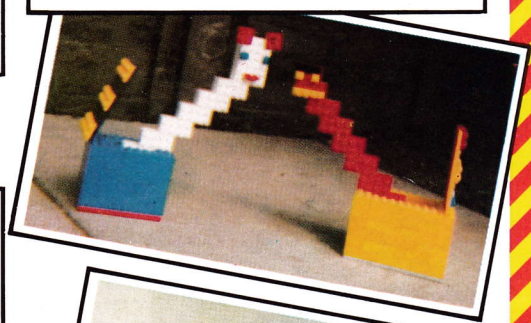
each of the members whose models are pecial model, send it in and you too could nown in the next issue of *Bricks 'n Pieces.*



Tardis We've had lots of K9's but this is the first Tardis we've had. And a very nice one too. From Peter Graham of Stockport.

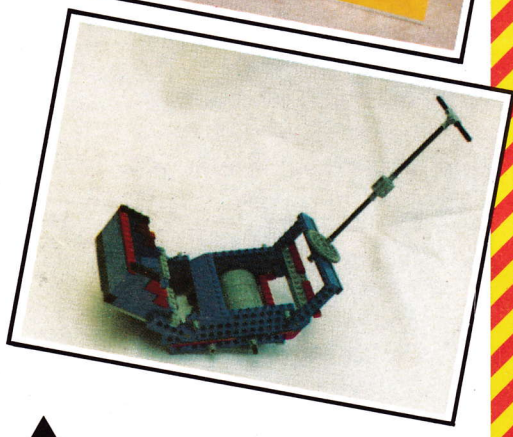
Captain Hook Mark Hughes (7) of Chester was inspired by the picture of David Lyall's model in our last magazine so he made his own version—and jolly good it is too.

Jack in the box Simon Gregory is 6 and comes from Selby. His jack in the box models are simple but original and very appealing.



Cable car A finely observed model by Danielle Bromwich of Oxford. The rocky landscape is nice too.

Giant excavator A most impressive model of one of those huge machines used for open-cast mining. Stephen Chambers of Bristol must have spent many hours working out this model.



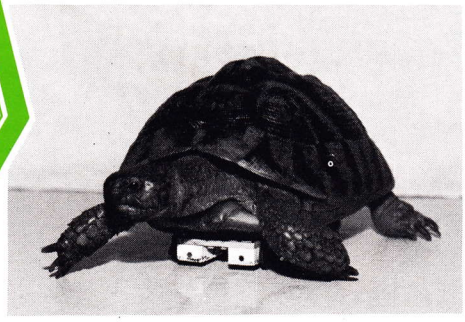
Lawn Mower A most elegantly detailed model with working rotors by Stephen Wooding of Liverpool.

PRACTICAL INVENTIONS

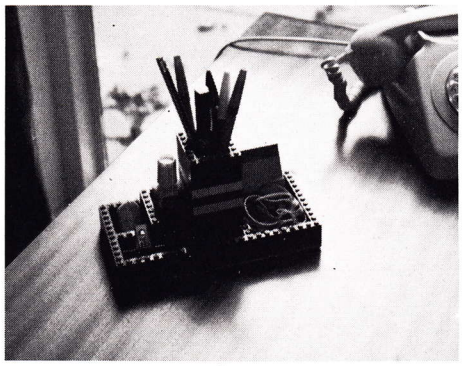
The uses people find for LEGO bricks never ceases to amaze us. Here are four examples all deserving of special Master Builder Awards.

If you make or see any examples of LEGO bricks being used to serve a practical use, do send in photos.

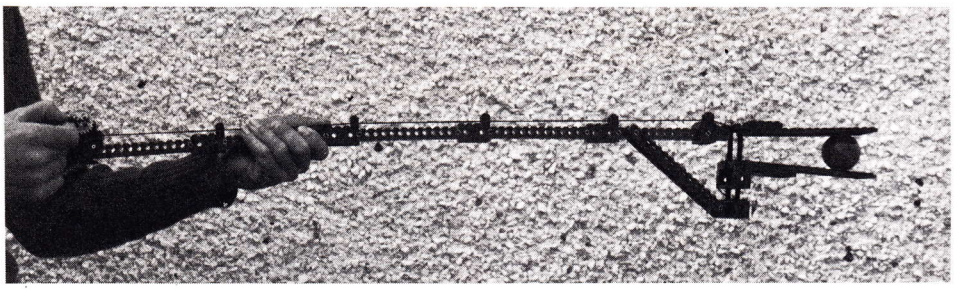
We'd love to see them.



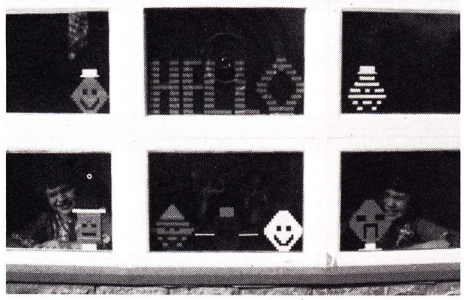
Aid for an Arthritic Tortoise When vet N. J. Mills of Staplehurst was brought a tortoise suffering from arthritis, he created this wheeled trolley to help the poor animal to move around until treatment took effect. There is something amusing about the idea of a tortoise on wheels but undoubtedly the tortoise was very grateful for Mr. Mills' clever idea.



Desk Tidy A neat and very practical idea built by Paul Scowen (9) of East Grinstead.



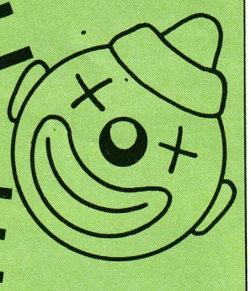
A Helping Hand This clever idea to help disabled people to reach things from their armchair was devised by Alistair Couper from Scotland. Full marks for thoughtfulness as well as cleverness, Alistair.



Cheery Welcome When visitors call at the Tonbridge home of Vanessa and Tracey Smith, they get a big 'Hello' even before they ring the doorbell.

Not really such a practical idea as the other three, but a very nice way to make visitors feel welcome.

JOKE TIME



These jokes were sent in by Derek Piercy of Danby. They made us laugh and we hope they will amuse you too. Perhaps you would like to send us your favourite joke, then we could have a regular column in our magazine for the best ones.

Q. *What is a sleeping Bull?*
A. A Bulldozer

Q. *Doctor Doctor, I think I'm a bell*
A. Take these tablets if they don't work in two days give me a ring!

Q. *What did the German policeman say to his chest?*
A. You are under a vest.

Q. *What is an IG?*
A. An Eskimo's house without a loo

Q. *What do cannibals play at parties?*
A. Swallow my leader

Q. *Do you know the difference between putty and porridge?*
A. If you don't, your windows will fall out

Q. *Why do bees hum?*
A. Because they don't know the words

DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER VISITS LEGO

We were honoured with a Royal visitor on the 26th September when the Duchess of Gloucester spent half an hour looking around our new headquarters in Wrexham.

The Duchess showed a lot of interest in the LEGO Builders Club and in our big LEGO models. You can see her studying St. George and the Dragon with our Managing Director, David Brown.

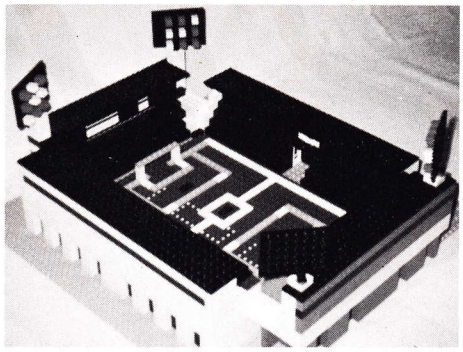
As the Duchess is herself Danish, she was already familiar with LEGO products of course, because they are all made in Denmark.

COMPETITION TIME

Here are photographs of two models which sparked the idea for this competition which we'll call 'Sporting Life'.

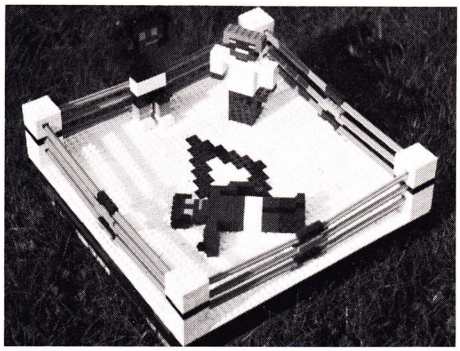
One is a football stadium by Paul Gipin (14) of Coventry. The other a boxing ring by Colin Whittaker (10) of Cheltenham.

Can you make a better model on any Sporting theme? It could be a model of an individual athlete or gymnast, a jockey on a horse, a bob-sleigh team or a complete cricket team. Anything you like, to do with sport.



There will be LEGO set prizes for the best models in two age groups, under 9 years and 9 and over.

We'll be looking for action, originality and neat execution. So get cracking and see what you can come up with. But remember, you've got to beat these two models because



we are including them in the competition, which is only fair.

Send your entries to:

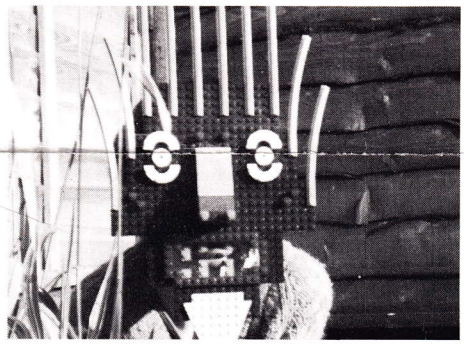
'Sporting Life', LEGO U.K. Ltd.,
Wrexham, Clwyd LL13 7TQ.

Competition closes on **18th January 1982.**

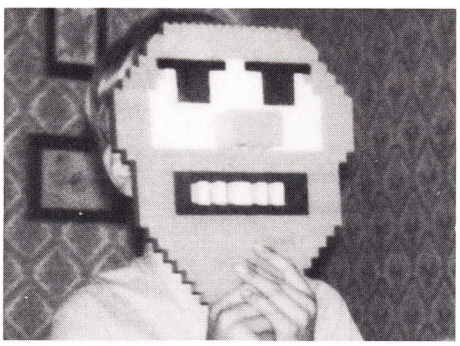
MONSTER MASK

COMPETITION WINNERS In the Summer edition of Bricks 'n Pieces we invited you to build Monster Masks. Here are the winners who built the masks we would be most frightened to meet on a dark night! (By the way, this was our most popular competition to date, judging by the huge number of entries, which tells you something about children though we are not quite sure what!)

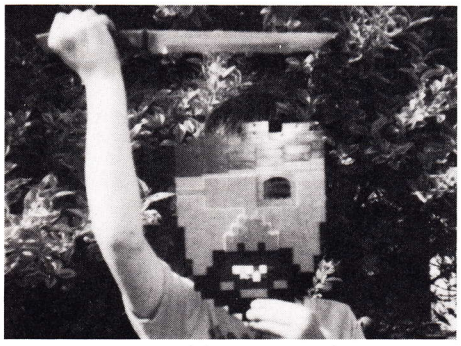
Under 9 years



1st Matthew Arrowsmith (8) of Weston Coyney (shudder, shudder).

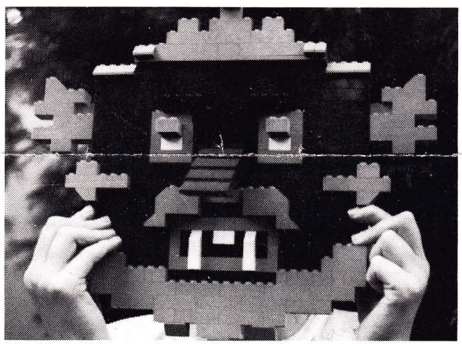


2nd Matthew Kendall (7) of Bradford (help!).

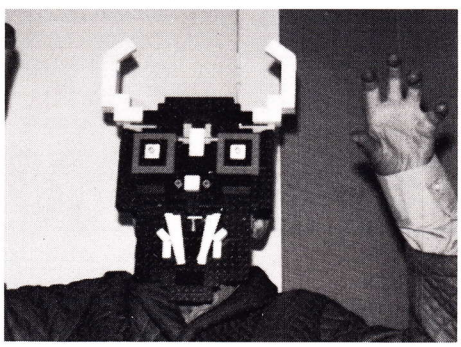


3rd James Bilson (6) of Saltash (the dreaded Black Pirate).

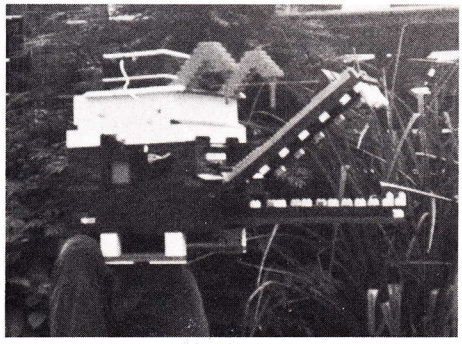
9 and over



1st Kirsty Wharton (9) of Scunthorpe (who said little girls were sugar and spice?).



2nd Robert Pym (12) of Bourne (shriek!).



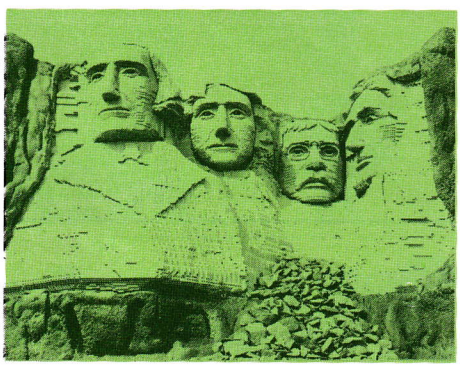
3rd Andrew Cecil (12) of Maidstone (those fearful jaws snap open and shut too!).

GUESS ? ? ? ? ? WHO?

One whole side of Mount Rushmore in America has been blasted away to form colossal portraits of four great Presidents of the United States.

This astonishing monument has been re-created out of 1½ million LEGO bricks in the LEGOLAND Park to make one of the most unforgettable features of that unforgettable place.

Our LEGO brick version is 'only' 14 metres (46 feet) high but it is still the biggest LEGO model ever built.



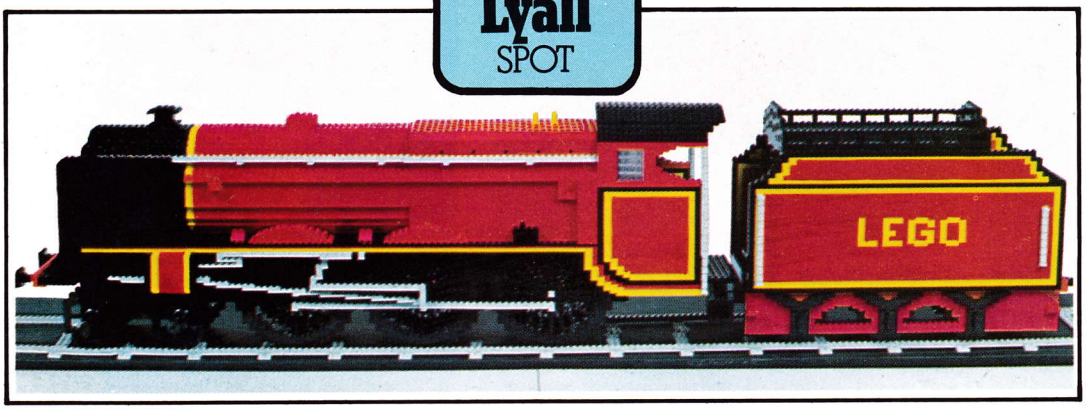
Can you name the four Presidents? If you can, send your answer on a **postcard only** to:

LEGO Builders Club
Guess Who? Competition
Wrexham
Clwyd
LL13 7TQ.

Just list the four Presidents in correct order, from left to right in the picture and add your name and address.

We will put all the correct answers into a hat for a lucky draw on 18th January 1982 and the first one to be pulled out will win a LEGO set worth around £10.

THE David Lyall SPOT



David Lyall, LEGO UK's model designer says:
Like everyone else I got very excited by the new LEGO Railways and that gave me the idea of building a train model of my own, only mine's a whopper! It is 1·35 metres (about 4′ 6″) long. Well, it had to be big for display in shop windows. I am rather pleased with it though the wheels gave me a headache. They were **very** tricky!

You of course will not have so many bricks (well, not many of you!) but here is an idea for you to try—a Christmas decoration of the Three Wise Men, or Three Kings. I reckon they'd look nice on the mantelpiece over Christmas, don't you?

Of course you don't have to copy mine. You could design your own, suited to whatever bricks you have. But it is nice to make them all as different as possible. I have made one from North Africa, one Chinese and one in heavy furs from a colder land, Russia perhaps.

The names of the Three Kings were Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior. I'm not sure which is which but they are splendid names, aren't they? Imagine being called Balthazar Lyall or Melchior Smith . . .

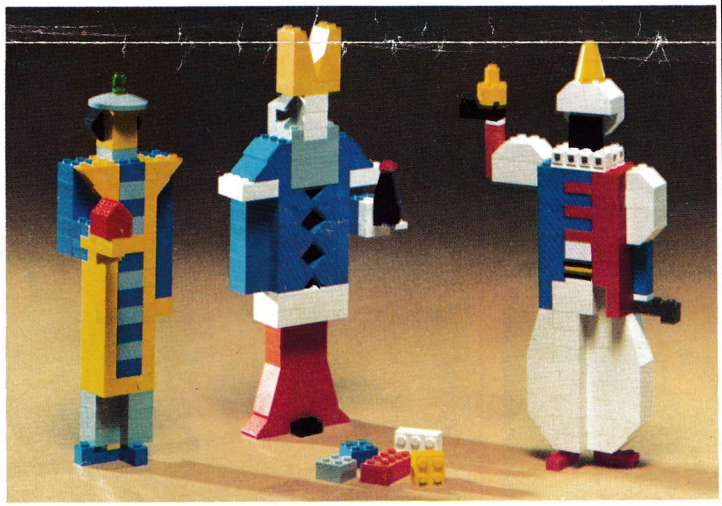
Calling all Irish Members

We are currently planning another attempt to build the Longest LEGO Model in the World—this time in Ireland, at the Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre on Sunday, 29th November.

To beat the current record the model has to be over half-a-mile long so it will need lots of willing hands. Should be great fun.

Clive Nicholls, the Club President, expects to be there and says he looks forward to meeting Irish Club Members among all the other Irish LEGO builders.

We 3 Kings . . . . .



Strong man at Hamleys

Hamleys of Regent Street, London, the biggest toy shop in the world according to the 'Guinness Book of Records', is now even bigger.

They have moved to new premises just a couple of doors along Regent Street, and now have more than twice the space they had previously.

The new store was opened with a fanfare of publicity in September and of course includes a big area for selling LEGO sets, so our model designer David Lyall created something special for them.

It is a figure of a Victorian acrobat/strong-man holding aloft a big LEGO sign, over 2 metres high over all.

He certainly makes an eye-catching display as you enter this best of all toy shops.

SPECIAL OFFER

FOR CLUB MEMBERS

POLICE ROAD BLOCK SET

£5.30

(saving 20%)

This is a repeat of the offer made in the Summer magazine because some of you wrote and asked us to do it nearer Christmas. We have put together the Police Van 6681, plus two road plates 302 and trees from pack 6305 to make this Police Road Block scene to add another play incident in your LEGOLAND Town.

Delivery
Normally we would ask you to allow up to 28 days for delivery but we will make every possible effort to get your orders to you before Christmas if we receive your order quickly.

ORDER FORM

Please send me . . . . . (number) of Police Road Block sets at £5·30 each.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

Post Code .....

A cheque for £.....is enclosed

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